

# Spotlight Publications

# Hansel & Gretel

**A pantomime by  
Susan Mosley**



## **Hansel & Gretel**

### **CAST**

**Hansel**

**Gretel**

**Jacob**, the woodcutter, Hansel & Gretel's father

**Dorothea**, the Dame, Hansel & Gretel's stepmother

**Grotaboggatt**, an evil witch

**Grimley**

**Argan**, Principal Boy

**Gallen**)

**Tuskin**) the Wandering Minstrels

**Otto**)

**Allura**, Chief Fairy

**Willow**)

**Murlock**) fairies

**Scene** – cottage, forest and Gingerbread House

**Time** – whenever

### **MUSICAL NUMBERS**

#### **ACT 1**

- 1: Opening dance number (Director's choice of current chart hit) (Chorus)
- 2: "Dancing Queen" (Abba) (Willow, Murlock and Chorus)
- 3: "Soft Shoe Song" (David Carroll) (Otto)
- 4: "The Gingerbread House" (Teresa Brewer) (Chorus)
- 5: "Paint It Black" (Rolling Stones) (Grotaboggatt)
- 6: "Fight Song" (Rachel Platten) (Argan, Gallen, Tuskin, Otto, Allura & Murlock)

#### **ACT 2**

- 7: "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" (Frankie Valli) (Dorothea & Jacob)
- 8: "Dance With My Father" (Luther Vandross) (Gretel)
- 9: Audience Participation Song "If You're Happy And You Know It, Clap Your Hands" (Allura, Murlock & Willow)
- 10: "Shout" (Lulu) (Otto)
11. "Wannabe" (Spice Girls) (Tuskin)
12. "Joy" (Will Young) (Company)

N.B. This list of songs is only the author's recommendation. All songs are at the discretion of the Musical Director.

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## ACT 1

## Scene 1

*Curtain opens to reveal the outside of Hansel and Gretel's cottage surrounded by a forest. Chorus members enter*

## Song 1

*Chorus exit, Dorothea and Jacob enter*

**Dorothea** *(to audience)* Well, as you can see it's that time of the year again when we all dress up in funny costumes and make utter fools of ourselves in the name of entertainment but before we begin proceedings let me have a look at you cos if I don't think you're up for the job then we'll get you all to leave and replace you with another much better audience.

*Dorothea peers at the audience with Jacob*

Em, not bad, not bad. you'll do. You won't believe this but there was a woman sat in the front row last night and she looked like she had just come direct from the set of a Hollywood movie. *(Nods her head, turns to Jacob)* Isn't that right, Jacob?

**Jacob** Yes, you could say that.

**Dorothea** It was very off-putting, cos I've never been a fan of horror movies!

**Effect 1**

Now let me introduce myself. I'm Dorothea and this *(points to Jacob)* is my lovely husband Jacob. Say hello to everyone.

**Jacob** *(to audience)* Hello. OK by a show of hands and a loud cheer how many of you are here tonight for the intellectual stimulation of seeing a live show?

*Expect a subdued response from audience. Dorothea can signal to the audience to respond quietly*

**Dorothea** *(to audience)* By a show of hands and a very loud cheer how many are here to be entertained and to laugh so loud they'll hear us in *(name a nearby town)*?

*Dorothea encourages audience to shout and cheer and clap loudly*

Wonderful, well you've certainly come to the right place. Now tonight's pantomime is Hansel and Gretel, originally written by the Brothers Grimm. This, however is *(name own theatre group's name)* own production of Hansel and Gretel. The original story had adventure, intrigue and dynamic characters throughout, our version doesn't. What it does have in abundance is a lot of performers overacting and trying to outdo the other cast members but don't let that put you off, we are going to give it a jolly good go and hope for the best. Now back to the story, where was I?

**Jacob** You were introducing us.

**Dorothea** Oh yes that's right. Now Jacob has two lovely children Hansel and Gretel and I'm proud to have them both as my step children. They are beautiful, lovely, well behaved children, unlike some we have in the audience but we are very poor.

*Dorothea encourages audience to aahh!*

Actually you won't believe me but we're much poorer than that.

*Audience will aahh louder*

**Dorothea** Yes we're so poor that we can't afford to look after them anymore.

**Jacob** *(looking extremely sad)* Oh how I wish I could give them everything their little hearts desire but alas I'm just a lowly woodcutter.

**Dorothea** *(comforting Jacob)* There, there, don't upset yourself.

**Jacob** A father should provide for his family but I earn so little.

**Dorothea** We'll manage, we always have in the past and we will again.

**Jacob** But we've never been this poor before.

**Dorothea** Something will turn up, it usually does.

**Jacob** I hope you're right.

**Dorothea** I always am. I am a woman after all! *(Winks at audience)*

**Jacob** Maybe it's time to bring out the stars of the show.

**Dorothea** *(looking confused)* But I'm already out, oh you mean Hansel and Gretel. Yes I suppose we could.

*Dorothea and Jacob move to the side*

**Dorothea** *(nudging Jacob)* I thought you said I was the star?

**Jacob** You are, my dear, you're my star.

**Dorothea** That's not the same.

**Jacob** *(to audience)* Ladies and gentlemen, can I introduce Hansel and Gretel.

*Hansel and Gretel enter. They hug Jacob and Dorothea*

**Dorothea** *(to Hansel)* Ah Hansel, now that you're here you can tell me if you've got around to it?

**Hansel** *(confused)* Around to what?

**Dorothea** A 'round' to it? *(emphasis needs to be placed on the 'to it' words)*

**Hansel** *(still confused)* Around to what? I don't understand you.

**Dorothea** Just answer yes or no, have you got a 'round' to it?

**Hansel** No.

**Dorothea** Ah well never mind you can have mine.

*Dorothea picks up a large round, flat disc. On the disc in large black lettering is the word 'TU-IT'. She shows it the audience then hands it to Hansel*

*(To Hansel)* Now you have a round 'Tu-it'!

*Dorothea laughs and repeats the joke direct to the audience*

*(To audience)* Get it? It's a round 'Tu-it', a round 'tu-it'. I'd laugh if I were you cos the jokes don't get any better than that!

**Gretel** *(to Jacob)* How was work today, Father, did you chop down lots of trees?

**Jacob** No, my axe is too blunt and I can't afford a new one.

**Hansel** I'm going to buy myself an axe and then I can help you. Together we'll be the best woodcutters in the forest. I'm going to get the T500 multimax deluxe version with a titanium cutting blade and a rubber soft grip handle. There's not a tree around that that little beauty won't chop down in seconds.

**Dorothea** And how do you intend buying that?

**Hansel** I was hoping I could borrow some money from the pot. I'll pay it back, I promise.

**Dorothea** The pot's empty.

**Gretel** *(to Dorothea)* Have we really got no money?

**Dorothea** Not a penny piece between us.

**Jacob** There's an old saying my grandfather used to say when things got bad, I've never forgotten it. Now what was it ... *(puts his head in his hands trying to remember, the others wait in anticipation)* ... no it's gone!

**Gretel** What are we going to do, I don't want to be poor?

**Dorothea** Neither do I. I know money can't buy happiness but it would sure make misery easier to live with. Oh it's such a worry.

**Jacob** Money trouble caused my grandfather to be ill.

**Hansel** What did you do?

**Jacob** We covered him head to toe in grease.

**Gretel** Did that make him better?

**Jacob** He went downhill very quickly after that!

**Hansel** Have we got anything to eat, cos I'm starving?

**Dorothea** We did have some rocket salad but it went off before we could eat it! We do have some bread and there's lot of things you can do with a slice or two of bread so we've that to look forward to.

**Hansel** *(sarcastically)* Oh great, I can't wait.

**Dorothea** Hey, less of your sarcasm young man, you might be grateful for that slice of bread later on. *(Winks to audience)*

**Jacob** (to *Hansel & Gretel*) I don't want you two to worry yourselves about this. We'll be fine.

**Gretel** But how can things be fine when we've no money?

**Dorothea** Listen to your father, things will improve and one day we'll laugh about this day and how poor we were. Now run along and wash up before dinner, we'll follow in a short while.

*Hansel and Gretel exit*

**Jacob** We're made such a mess of everything, haven't we?

**Dorothea** The country voted to leave the EU, this is not our fault.

*Allura enters SR*

*Effect 2*

**Dorothea** Oh look it's the good fairy Allura, how lovely of you to visit us. We don't see you round these parts much.

**Allura** No but I just needed to get away from the fairy camp for a few hours, I needed a bit of peace and quiet.

**Dorothea** In other words you just needed a bit of me time.

**Allura** That's right I did, (*pause*) and a way of eating my bag of Monster Munch without anyone trying to pinch one. Now I understand things are difficult for you at the moment.

**Dorothea** (*impressed*) How would you know that? I didn't know fairies were psychic?

**Allura** Oh we're not. I was over there eating (*points offstage*) and I overheard you talking.

**Dorothea** (*disappointed*) Oh right.

**Jacob** We've no money, only bread to eat and I can't afford a new axe.

**Allura** Don't give up hope. Nothing's ever as bad as it seems, something always pops up unexpectedly.

**Dorothea** If something pops up, I'll hit it with my handbag!

*Hansel enters at the rear unseen by Jacob, Dorothea and Allura. He listens to their conversation*

**Jacob** We just don't know what to do. Can you help, Allura?

**Allura** I don't know what I can do. I'm afraid we cannot grant wishes anymore due to the government's austerity measures, even the Fairies have suffered due to cutbacks.

**Dorothea** (*overacting*) Oh what are we to do, we're doomed, doomed!

*Jacob & Dorothea cling to each other*

**Allura** Why don't you let Hansel and Gretel come and live with us at the fairy camp just until you get back on your feet?

**Dorothea** We can't send the children away!

**Allura** It would just be for a short time and it would be two less mouths to feed. It might help. (*Turns to Jacob*) What is your opinion regarding this?

**Jacob** I have a wife, I don't have an opinion.

**Allura** Well it's just a suggestion. We would take good care of them and no harm would befall them. If you change your mind just let me know.

*Allura starts to walk away*

**Dorothea** If we agree to this proposal the children would be well looked after?

*Allura stops and faces them*

**Allura** Of course.

**Jacob** Dorothea, surely you're not considering this?

**Dorothea** I think it could be our only chance. If they stay with us they'll probably starve, we can't afford to feed them. At least this way we know they'll be safe and well fed. I don't think we have a choice. We must let them stay with the Fairies, just for a while.

**Jacob** I don't think I could live without seeing their lovely smiling faces every day.

**Dorothea** You can just look at my lovely smiling face every day instead.

**Allura** So it's agreed, the children shall stay with us for a while?

**Jacob** (*reluctantly*) I guess so.

**Allura** Shall I take them now?

**Jacob** No, we shall have supper together and then we'll bring them to the fairy camp ourselves.

**Allura** You cannot enter our camp, only fairies and children are allowed but if you take them to the large clearing on the other side of the forest I'll make arrangements for them to be collected there. We have a trainee fairy with us at the moment who goes by the name of Murlock. He will collect the children and look after them until you are ready to bring them home. It will help Murlock gain his wings. As we treasure our privacy very seriously you must not tell Hansel and Gretel about our plans. Once they are safely in the camp I will explain everything to them but for now it must be our little secret.

**Dorothea** Very well. *(To Jacob)* We shall have a lovely supper tonight and we must try not to be too sad for the sake of the children.

**Jacob** I'm not happy about this but I know it's for the best.

*Having heard the plan Hansel quickly leaves the stage*

**Allura** Splendid. I shall return to camp and tell them the good news. It will be lovely having children around to brighten up the place. Murlock will be pleased to have such an important job to do; I can't wait to tell him.

*Allura exits*

**Dorothea** Let's go and find Hansel and Gretel and enjoy our last few hours together.

*Dorothea and Jacob exit as the curtains close*

## **Hansel And Gretel**

**By Susan Mosley**

This is a pantomime version of the well-known fairy tale written by the Brothers Grimm. It has all the elements needed for a fun-filled family show with gags, songs and barrels of laughter. Along with the Principal Boy and Girl, the show has a Dame, an evil witch and her inept assistant, a comedy group of Wandering Minstrels and a troupe of Fairies.

### **Plot Summary**

When Jacob the woodcutter and his wife Dorothea fall on hard times and agree to let the Fairies look after Hansel and Gretel it is the start of a great adventure. Grotaboggatt the evil witch captures the children and imprisons them. Fate seems to have dealt them a terrible injustice until Argan a handsome stranger agrees to rescue them. Together with a group of Wandering Minstrels who have fallen on hard times and a trio of Fairies they set off on a perilous journey to the Witch's house in the hope of finding Hansel and Gretel. Will Hansel and Gretel be saved? Will the dastardly plans of the evil witch be stopped in time? As in all good fairy tales a happy ending is ensured.

Running time: approx. two hours

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